



SUGAR LAND'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Safe City • Planned Community • Strong Local Economy • Financially Strong City • Mobility for People

Summer 2001

There is no equal



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CONGRATULATIONS Councilman David Wallace!

Sugar Land voters elected David Wallace to serve as District 4 representative on City Council. Wallace won the May 5 City Council election with 77.81 percent of the votes cast. Of the 10,200 registered voters in District 4, a total of 1,415 votes were cast, which represents 13.87 percent of the electorate.

Mike Siwierka, who chose not to seek re-election, previously represented District 4.

The following incumbents ran unopposed and were declared elected to office: Councilmembers Donald L. Smithers, District 1; Cyril Hosley, District 2; and Brian Gaston, District 3.

Following the election, members of Council appointed Smithers mayor pro-tem.

The City's Automatic Payment Plan enables customers to pay their monthly water/wastewater bill automatically *at no additional cost.*

Reasons to Consider Automatic Payment Plan

- The service is free.
- Timely payments result in good credit ratings.
- Customers continue to receive bills for their records.
- Late charges are avoided.
- Postage costs are saved.
- There is no monthly check to write.

To sign up for the plan, complete the application available at www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us/gengov/payopt.htm and return the form with a voided personal check to: Revenue Department, P.O. Box 5029, Sugar Land, Texas, 77487.

For more information, call (281) 275-2750.

City Council Goes Live

Residents of Sugar Land no longer need to leave their homes to view City Council or Planning and Zoning meetings. Anyone with an Internet connection can view live broadcasts of the meetings on the City's Web site – www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us.

In addition to a computer, individuals will need Real Player or Media Player to view meetings over the Internet. Both software applications are available for download on Sugar Land's home page. Archived files of past meetings are also available on the City's Web site and can be viewed by specific agenda item.

Calling All HOAs

Sugar Land is currently updating its Homeowner Association contact list, which enables the City to communicate with residents more effectively. For news releases or special City communication that need to reach residents, the City asks each HOA to provide up-to-date contact information. Please call in HOA contact information to (281) 275-2816 or e-mail to action@cityhall.ci.sugar-land.tx.us.

Sugar Land Leads Texas' Top 40



2000 Census figures rank Sugar Land as the fastest-growing city in the Houston metropolitan area and among the state's top 40 cities. The City's population jumped from 24,529 in 1990 to 63,328 today - a 158 percent increase.

CITY COUNCIL

Dean A. Hrbacek
Mayor

James A. Thompson
Councilmember-At-Large, Position One

Karyn K. Dean
Councilmember-At-Large, Position Two

Donald L. Smithers
Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilmember, District One

Cyril Hosley
Councilmember, District Two

J. Brian Gaston
Councilmember, District Three

David Wallace
Councilmember, District Four

CITY STAFF

David Neeley
City Manager

Allen Bogard
Deputy City Manager

Karen Glynn
Director of Community Development

Claire Manthei
Director of Finance/Administration

Earnest Taylor
Police Chief

John Wu
Fire Chief

Joe Morris
City Attorney

Glenda Gundermann
City Secretary

New Telephone System at City's Municipal Court Offers Convenience

Letting their fingers do the walking, Sugar Land residents may check municipal court information by dialing (281) 275-2601 for English and (281) 275-2602 for Spanish. Sugar Land is the second city in Texas to provide this convenient service.

A new telephone system, called Interactive Voice Response System, provides residents with court information, including court dates, fine amounts, trial dates, directions to court and defensive driving courses. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Juvenile Night Court is in Session

School is no longer a reason for juveniles to miss court appearances. Sugar Land has launched Juvenile Night Court, a pilot program offered the third Monday of each month from 6-8 p.m. Juvenile cases must be scheduled for this special docket, and parents or legal guardians must accompany children under 17 years old. For more information, call (281) 275-2560.

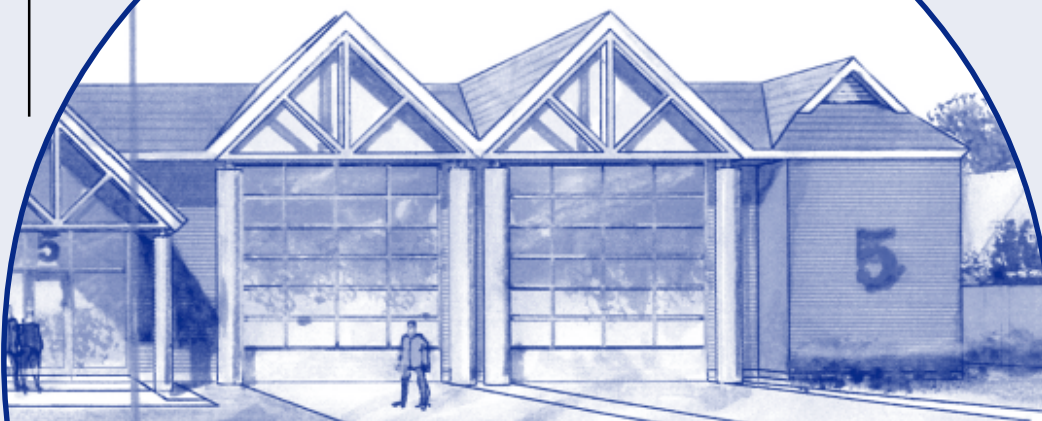
Business as Usual Expected During SLPD's Relocation

Some offices at the Sugar Land Police Department will soon move to temporary quarters adjacent to its current building to accommodate expansion of the facility on State Highway 6 at First Colony Boulevard.

The move is expected in June and should last about 14 months. The following sections will be relocated: police administration, crime prevention and training, identification, youth services and detectives.

Police operations are not expected to be affected by the move.

Fire Update



Fire Station #5, under construction in Avalon Subdivision at Elkins and Commonwealth, is expected to be operational sometime in September. The station will serve the southwest portion of Sugar Land, including Commonwealth, Avalon and Sweetwater subdivisions.

The Fire Department's (SLFD) dive team has been actively involved with the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office in evidence recovery. SLFD is currently working with the Missouri City and Stafford fire departments to expand the team. Divers on the team are trained in evidence recovery, enabling them to assist any police agency.

Growing Some Justice

Instead of paying fines, some Sugar Land juveniles are growing vines – vegetables, fruits, etc. A juvenile community garden offers an alternative for juveniles to satisfy various Class C misdemeanor offenses in the City.

The six-month-old program is funded with a federal grant from the Texas Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, as well as donations from area businesses and individuals.

Juveniles referred to the program by the Sugar Land Municipal Court cultivate the garden on a year-round basis, with the crops donated to local assistance programs.

Awards



Sugar Land Police **Sergeant James Hines** received the Exchange Club of Sugar Land's 2001 Badge of Courage Law Enforcement award for his community involvement, unselfish spirit to help others and his exceptional work in the department's patrol division.



The Texas Gulf Coast District Exchange Club selected Sugar Land Police **Detective Russell Womble** to receive its Officer of the Year Award. The award recognizes Womble's commitment to professional and quality investigative work. He is pictured with Chief Earnest Taylor.



Sugar Land Police **Officer Dee Warren** received the Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year Award from the University of Houston Criminal Justice Department. Warren maintained a 4.0 grade point average during her graduate work.

JOIN US OUTSIDE...



on
**National
Night
Out**



On Aug. 7, neighborhoods throughout Sugar Land are invited to turn on their outside lights from 7-10 p.m. and spend the evening with their neighbors for the "18th Annual National Night Out" crime and drug prevention event.

If you are interested in hosting a party for your neighborhood, block or street, please contact police officer Butch McAllister, of the Crime Prevention Unit, at (281) 275-2575 to register your party. City Council members and other City officials will be visiting as many parties as possible.

SLPD Achieves National Accreditation

The Sugar Land Police Department (SLPD) has joined an elite group of agencies to achieve national accreditation. SLPD is the first police agency in Fort Bend County and joins the ranks of only 21 other law enforcement agencies in Texas and more than 500 agencies in the nation that are nationally accredited.

Accreditation is a coveted award symbolizing professionalism, excellence and competence, in addition to providing objective evidence of an agency's commitment to excellence in leadership, resource management and service delivery.

The award is the culmination of a two-year process that involved a systematic review and audit of all departmental policies, procedures and equipment to ensure compliance with 439 established standards. Most law enforcement agencies take three years to complete the accreditation process.

SLPD looking for Citizen Recruits

The Sugar Land Police Department is looking for a few good men and women to join the ranks of the next Citizens Police Academy.

The program will be held once a week, from 7-10 p.m., Sept. 6 through Dec. 7, at the Sugar Land Police Department, 1200 State Highway 6.

The 39-hour training program consists of classroom and "hands-on" instruction and provides participants with a working knowledge of the police department and its personnel. Participants must be at least 18 years old and live or work in Sugar Land. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Aug. 1. For more information, contact Sgt. Angie Womble at (281) 275-2572.



No Power, No Problem – Traffic Lights Will Still Work

If traffic signals go out, not to worry.

Sugar Land recently implemented an innovative system that has dramatically improved mobility and safety throughout the City. Traffic signal control panels have been retrofitted with a power relay hook-up that allows the use of a portable generator unit. It's just as simple as plugging an appliance into a power outlet.

In addition, an emergency response unit for transport and refueling was designed and built to ensure uninterrupted operation for extended periods.



A Celebration of Water

Water conservation was the theme of the City's annual H2O EXPO Celebration, held at Eldridge Park Pavilion. A highlight was the release of large-mouth bass and catfish into the park's lake.

In addition, Utilities Manager Howard Christian and Public Works Director Tommy Haynes recognized the following winners of this year's City water conservation book cover art contest: Winners from grades 1-2 were Kanwal Kirani, first place, Colony Meadows Elementary; Sonal Lohdo, second place, Colony Meadows Elementary; and Fatima Artini, third place, Colony Meadows Elementary. Winners from grades 3-5 were Salima Dhamani, first place, Stafford; Andrea Sierra, second place, Colony Meadows Elementary; and Katie Pearson, third place, Colony Meadows Elementary. The students' artwork will appear on book covers during the 2002 school year.



*Water Conservation
& Local School Kids
Featured at Sugar
Land's H2O EXPO*

A Glass Recycling Center Change

Strategic Materials, the City's vendor for glass processing, has announced it will no longer accept mixed-colored glass. This decision will affect the Sugar Land Glass Recycling Center located inside Macco Park near State Highway 90A.

Residents will only be able to recycle clear- and brown-colored glass at the recycling center. Green-, blue- and amber-colored glass will need to be thrown away.

For more information, call (281) 275-2450.

54,800 POUNDS of Hazardous Waste Collected

Residents hauled more than 54,800 pounds of hazardous waste to the Schlumberger parking lot as part of the City's Household Hazardous Waste event this spring. About 73 percent of the materials delivered was household paint, followed by hazardous materials, used oil, lawn and garden chemicals, batteries, tires and other hazardous chemicals.

In addition, the following items were recycled:

- 930 gallons of paint;
- 160 batteries;
- 1,340 pounds of cardboard;
- 1,500 gallons of used motor oil;
- 400 oil filters;
- 1,780 pounds of steel paint cans; and
- 100 gallons of anti-freeze.



TOWN SQUARE



**takes
next
step**



Sugar Land's Town Square project is moving forward, as City Council has entered into a public-private partnership with Stormont Trice Development Corporation and Sugarland Properties, Inc. to develop one of the area's premier hotel and conference centers. The public-private partnership funding the development of the hotel and conference center is similar to the one that resulted in First Colony Mall.

The development of the Sugar Land Marriott Hotel and Conference Center has been identified as one of Council's top priorities, and construction of the 300-room facility is expected to begin by the end of the year. When completed, the facility will include:

- a 60,000-square-foot conference center;
- a ballroom with a capacity of 1,300 people; and
- a five-level, 600-space, above-ground parking garage adjacent to the hotel/conference center.

The hotel is an important component of the overall Town Square project, which will include a mix of retail and office space. The City is excited about the progress being made on the project as it will offer a number of benefits including:

- creating a focal point and identity for the City;
- addressing the need for first class hotel and meeting space; and
- supporting the City's continuing economic development.

Improved Bond Ratings Saves \$\$\$

Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service, leading international rating agencies, upgraded the City of Sugar Land's General Obligation bond rating from A+ to AA- and A1 to Aa3, respectively. Fitch IBCA, Duff & Phelps maintained Sugar Land's AA-rating after upgrading Sugar Land from A+ to AA- in May 2000.

Credit ratings help investors analyze the credit risks associated with fixed-income securities. Both ratings indicate the City's capacity to meet its financial commitment on a bond obligation is very strong, which typically results in lower interest rates and credit insurance on future bond sales for capital improvement projects.

Softball Hits a Homerun

To accommodate the rapid growth of the Sugar Land Girls' Softball Association, the City will be expanding the existing complex on Matlage Way to include 11 fields, two concession stands, a playground, trails, landscaping and 500 parking spaces.

The expansion is part of a 44-acre, city-owned master plan that includes the current fields, as well as acreage south of US Highway 90A across from Nalco.

Phase I design is currently underway, which includes three new fields, renovation of one field, a concession/restroom/press box building and parking for 250 cars. Completion of Phase 1 is expected during fall 2002. Future phases will include renovation of the existing fields, another new field and additional parking.



A City employee since 1990, Ken has worked at the airport for 20 consecutive years, hired by "Doc" Hull during his junior year in high school. As a line crew supervisor, he oversees parking, refueling, towing and servicing of all type of aircraft. Not only does he ensure smooth operations on the "ramp," the section of the airport used to park aircraft, but he is also responsible for fueling safety and quality control.

Having grown up next to the airport, Ken has witnessed its development from a grass field to the area's premier reliever airport. In Ken's youth, the runway was a short narrow asphalt strip. The current 8,000-foot concrete runway has doubled in width and length since then. The City added air traffic controllers, and a new 85-foot air traffic control tower is under construction and should be operational this fall.

Taxiway H was extended 550 feet, allowing BPI Aviation and Western Airways to move their flight departments to the airport. Parker Drilling will soon be moving into the airport's new corporate hangar, which is currently under construction.

Test Your Ordinance Knowledge

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The following items are summaries of Sugar Land ordinances. They can be found in their entirety at <http://www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us/codes.htm> in Part II Code of Ordinances.

Chapter 18: Peddlers/Solicitors

Article I, Sec. 18-1, Ordinance No. 1298 (Peddling upon public property)(Enacted May 15, 2001): The City Council believes that persons soliciting or selling merchandise within certain public roadways and medians within the City pose a substantial danger to the person soliciting and to the occupants of motor vehicles; therefore, it is unlawful for a person to stand or sit in a roadway or roadway median to solicit money or other items of value or to distribute any material to the occupant of any motor vehicle. The roadway means any public street that has more than two main travel lanes or a speed limit exceeding 30 miles per hour.

Chapter 15: Nuisances

Sec. 15-2, Ordinance No. 1236 (Noise Regulations): It is unlawful for any person to intentionally or knowingly make or create any noise of such volume, intensity or duration as to disturb or annoy a reasonable person of normal sensitivity in the usual and expected enjoyment or the use of a dwelling. In addition, it is unlawful for any person operating a business that operates an outdoor playground as an accessory use, if the playground is located within 500 feet of a dwelling, to intentionally or knowingly allow any person to make use of the playground between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Chapter 4: Animal Control

Article II, Sec. 4-1, Ordinance No. 1169: It is unlawful for any person to allow an animal under his or her control to be running at large. It is unlawful for any person to fail to take the acts necessary to prevent an animal under his or her control to be running at large. The City may impound any animals found running at large.

Article III, Sec. 4-36, Ordinance No. 888 (Unreasonably Noisy Animals): It is unlawful and a nuisance for any owner or keeper of an animal, including, but not limited to, dogs and cats, to allow the animal to bark, growl, howl, whine or make any other sound loud and long enough to unreasonably disturb the peace of other people on the same, adjoining or nearby property. Prior to filing a complaint with the City, the person having been disturbed by an animal must give written notice to the owner or keeper of the animal that the animal's conduct has disturbed his peace on more than one occasion. A copy of such written notice must be presented to the City at the time of filing the complaint.

Chapter 12: Garbage, Trash, and Weeds

Article IV, Sec. 12-11, Ordinance No. 981 (Limitation on height of grass and weeds): It is unlawful for any person who owns, occupies or controls any real property that contains two acres or less to allow weeds or grass to grow on the lot to a height of more than nine inches. It is unlawful for any person who owns, occupies or controls any real property containing more than two acres to allow weeds or grass to grow thereon to a height of more than nine inches: 1) on any portion of the property that is within 30 feet of any building or structure on the property; 2) on any portion of the property that is within 30 feet of any adjacent, developed property; or 3) on any portion of the property that is within 30 feet of a public roadway or sidewalk. If the owner of the property does not correct the violation within 10 days after notice is given, the City may do the work or pay for the work necessary to correct the violation. A statement of the costs incurred by the City in correcting a violation shall be mailed to the property owner. The costs shall include an administrative fee of \$30. Payment of all costs is due within 30 days of the date of mailing.

And the Bands Played On

Sugar Land's first-ever "Concert in the Park" series received rave reviews from those in attendance at Eldridge Park and Oyster Creek Park.

The free, six-week concert series was organized by the Parks and Recreation Department and featured the following Houston-area bands during late spring and early summer:

- The Gary-Michael Dahl Band (rhythm, blues and jazz);
- Texas Johnny Brown and the Quality Blues Band (Texas blues);
- Mango Punch (Latin, jazz, salsa and tropical);
- the Longneck Band (Country-Western); and
- the Zydeco Dots (Zydeco Music).

A DATE TO REMEMBER

August

- 7 City Council Meeting
- 7 National Night Out
- 12 Pool Closes Daily Operations
- 21 City Council Meeting
- 28 City Council Workshop

October

- 2 City Council Meeting
- 16 City Council Meeting
- 23 City Council Workshop
- 27 Halloween Fun Night
- 28 Daylight Savings Time Ends

September

- 3 Labor Day-City Offices Closed
- 3 Pool Closes
- 4 City Council Meeting
- 18 City Council Meeting
- 25 City Council Workshop

November

- 6 City Council Meeting
- 6 Election Day
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 20 City Council Meeting
- 22 Thanksgiving Day
- City Offices Closed
- 23 City Offices Closed
- 27 City Council Workshop

Labor Day* (Monday, September 3):

Monday's solid waste collection will occur on Tuesday, and Tuesday's collection will occur on Wednesday.

Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 22):

Thursday's solid waste collection will occur on Friday.

** Thursday's and Friday's collection will not be affected.*



City of Sugar Land
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